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285134

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 3:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Docket number 2018-358-WS

Dear Mr. Steve Eskew,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- **Docket No. 2018-358-WS - Verified Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms and Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Expenses**

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-358-WS - Verified Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms and Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Expenses -
<https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116911>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer
Clerk's Office/Administrative Coordinator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
803-896-5100
Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text [PSCAGENDAS](#) to [39492](#)



* Required Fields

Date: * June 10, 2019

**Letter of Protest
in Docket 2018-358- WS**

Protestant Information:

Name * Steve Eskew

Mailing Address *

City* Clover

State* SC

Zip *29710

Phone:

Email:

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of Blue Granite Water (Customer I _____ and would like to understand why this rate increase is necessary.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

It seems a 21% increase in the rate per 1000 gallons of usage for Service Territory 1 is excessive. The current CPI (Consumer Price Index) is only around 2%. I would like to understand the justification from the company supporting a 21% increase.

In addition, I have a few follow-up questions:

- 1.) The Rate Applications History document included with the proposal materials is dated 3/10/15. Is there a similar document that is more current?
- 2.) From the information contained within the PSC 2nd Revised Notice (Docket 2018-358-WS), I noticed the proposed increase for Service Territory 2 is 9% (which also seems a little excessive). Can the Company describe why there is a difference between Territory 1 and Territory 2 in the proposed percentage for the rate increase?
- 3.) Using the Rate Application History document, specific to Carolina Water (prior company name) I noticed that none of the dockets water rates exceed \$40.81 for a 6000 gallon per month usage level (6000 gallons per months seems to be some type of reporting standard). At the 6000 gallons per month my water bill would be approximately \$45.30 per month (\$7.55 x 6), which I note is already higher than the highest Carolina Water rate on the Rate Application History document (dated 03-10-15). Why is it appropriate to increase consumer water costs, when the current rate (\$7.55 per thousand) appears to be the highest within the Company service area?

Also, as a water user in Service Territory 1, it has been communicated to me (as well as my neighbors) that water delivery is an issue (primarily within the Blue Granite Water service area), where a form of mandatory water rationing was recently enacted. Can a Company representative provide an explanation for the recent water issues, including providing the names of the sources (wholesaler) of the potable water provided by the Company, the wholesale cost of the water to the Company, and any projections or remediation strategies designed to alleviate the water challenges (and if obtaining a rate increase is the answer to the recent water delivery issues, then please provide details supporting the connection between increased rates and water delivery)?

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

No – If the meeting is local, I would like to attend.